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## Nicaraguans Expel 3 Americans, Charging 'Macabre Plot' on Aide

By STEPHEN KINZER

Special to The New York Times

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, June 6 — The Nicaraguan Government expelled three American diplomats today, charging one with overseeing a "macabre plot" to kill or incapacitate the Foreign Minister.

All three, according to Lenin Cerna, the Government's security chief, were using diplomatic cover while working for the Central Intelligence Agency. He said they were building a "counterrevolutionary network" whose members were to have formed "terrorist commando squads to carry out attacks on our leaders."

The United States Embassy rejected the charges "in most emphatic terms" and asked the Nicaraguans to rescind the expulsion orders, which it said "directly contravene the most basic norms of diplomatic practice." An embassy spokesman, Gilbert Callaway, described the charges as ludicrous and "all lies."

At a news conference, Mr. Cerna displayed what he said were implements given by the C.I.A. to a Nicaraguan woman who was working as a double agent. Among them were two booklets for translating coded radio messages, note paper that dissolved on contact with water and a bottle of adulterated liquor that was to be given to Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman.

### Codes Hidden in Carving

The double agent, Mariena Moncada, received the liquor on Saturday, Mr. Cerna said. It was delivered immediately to Government chemists who concluded Sunday that it contained a toxic ingredient.

Miss Moncada, who was at the news conference, said she was working as a consular secretary at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Honduras last year when she was introduced to a man who gave his name as Luis Rodriguez and "identified himself as a member of the C.I.A." She said that Mr. Rodriguez tried to recruit her and that, after conferring with her superiors, she accepted his offer and began work as a double agent.

She said she supplied information about the personal habits and political views of some of her embassy colleagues until being recalled to Managua last September. Before returning, she said, she was given radio code books hidden in a wooden carving as well as a portable radio and other items, which were displayed today for correspondents.

On a brief return visit to Honduras after moving to Managua, Miss Moncada said she was approached about the possibility of poisoning Foreign Minister d'Escoto. She was offered \$5,000 for the job, she said, and agreed.

She said she was given three lie detector tests by C.I.A.-connected technicians and apparently passed them all.

On May 31, according to her account, she received a coded radio message directing her to pick up the poisoned liquor, which she was told had been left for her inside a bucket in an overgrown lot behind a Managua restaurant. At the prescribed spot, she said, she found a boxed bottle of Benedictine together with a note.

"Very important comply with following instructions," said the note, a copy of which was shown at today's news conference.

"Protect bottle in a safe place, repeat safe place. Wait for opportune moment. Don't lose hope but you mustn't lose much time in delivering it. Don't be afraid, have confidence, this will not leave any trace. Remember what was explained to you in your last visit. It will not have any immediate effect and is not fatal. I assure you no risk. You should notify as soon as you deliver it."

Miss Moncada said her main contact in Managua was one of the three American diplomats expelled today, Ermila L. Rodriguez. Photographs and videotapes of Miss Moncada meeting Mrs. Rodriguez in Managua were shown at the news conference.

According to Mr. Cerna, Nicaraguan chemists who analyzed the liquor found that it contained a mixture of various acids that would produce delayed effects on anyone drinking it. After 10 days, the chemists were reported to have said, the victim would experience

difficulty in walking and breathing, would feel continuous nausea and abdominal pain and would contract fever and other ailments.

According to the chemists' report, the victim would later suffer convulsions and be unable to speak clearly, and could die from respiratory failure. It would be "particularly difficult" to tell that these symptoms were not brought about by natural causes, the report said.

Besides Mrs. Rodriguez, the Americans expelled today were Linda M. Pfeifel, chief of the embassy's political section, and David N. Greig, a political officer. Mr. Cerna accused both of stimulating "right-wing political parties and labor unions" to act against the Government.

Mr. Greig was identified last year in a leftist Nicaraguan magazine as the officer in charge of the C.I.A. station in Managua, and today Mr. Cerna called him "the chief of the C.I.A. group that operates from the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua."

Government officials offered no such charges against Miss Pfeifel, but Mr. Cerna said she regularly visited anti-Sandinists within Nicaragua and pressed them to continue acting against their Government.

### U.S. Issues Denial

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 6 — The United States, reacting to Nicaragua's expulsion of three American diplomats, denied today that they had been plotting against the Nicaraguan Government.

Alan Romberg, a State Department spokesman, said the United States was protesting the expulsion order to Nicaragua and was considering "what steps might be appropriate in light of this action."

Mr. Romberg said the three Americans had not left Nicaragua.